

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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February 16, 1999 LB 101, 789

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 789.

SENATOR CROSBY: (LB) 789 advances. LB 101.

CLERK: (LB) 101 introduced by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7, referred to Natural Resources. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments, Madam President. (See AM0213 found on page 485 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bromm, to open on 101.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, LB 101 is a bill that was introduced two years ago as well, and it was advanced but did not have time to get anywhere on the floor. It was a noncontroversial bill, at least in our committee, then as it was now. The purpose of the bill is to recognize that even though we're in a period right now of low cost energywise, very low prices for oil, that we have in this state a great resource that could be identified and used for possibly energy, and this would set up a committee with a sunset date of interested and affected parties for the purpose of investigating and identifying potential instate opportunities for developing biomass resources, and, secondly, to inquire into and pursue potential private or public sources of funding to bring about development of biomass demonstration products or projects, I should say. This would bring, we think, together representatives of the state's public power systems and the ag community, state economic development people, the environmental community, and others to share information about biomass technology, and to investigate the economic potential and feasibility of a biomass project or projects. We received good support at the hearing for the bill from the...from the power industry and there were...there were no opponents; Nebraska Sierra Club, as well, Citizen Action Network, University of Nebraska Environmental Resource Center, and so on. You can see the list on your committee statement. There will be a committee amendment. I will let Senator Schrock introduce that, and then we will talk a little bit more about the intent of the bill. Thank you, Senator Crosby.